A Student Centered Classroom-with google drive and add ons

By Bill Parsons

This gentleman was very relatable to a teacher. One piece he started on was having the artifacts of the works students had done in the year, in order to go back and review at the end of the year. One thing is he has the students make it a favorite on their google drive, and also in their phones. He uses the “Sunday Post”-weekly updates that they do each week, and also links to things that they can use to do their work or their work. This is a cool thought for how to keep in contact with parents another way in school. He has a google presentation that they each are assigned and work on all at once. This is a great collaboration tool for students to use and one that I really want to work more with, and share with students and teacher alike! With the students having worked on a piece that they produced, they are studying things that others have done, not just something the teacher has given out to them. I like how he talked that there is no guarantee that they will be serious, or polite, or produce what you want them to. It gives them a realistic sense of doing their own work in the real world, and also being part of a team. He also does a piece on a google Doc called “What should a blog post in English Class be Like?” This is a great way to involve students in online pieces, without having to walk them through a blog, which for my students can be nearly impossible. He uses his blog spot to post things that students have done that are really cool! I think it would be great to try and have the students make their own blog piece, to make it their own, however. He also sets aside time that other students can go out and read others’ blogs and comment on them, which means that they have a little bit more buy-in into the project. He has students make comments on poems and annotate them and then it is saved and linked so students can go back and view later on.

He talked about Doctopus app and how he uses it in his classroom. He can go back and see the link to the essay. He can also see how many words they have, how many times he commented on it, what their score was, etc. This is a great piece to get everyone’s work in the same spot, rather than going out and searching for each individual essay on something. When you get into Doctopus you have to create a template for what you want them write about. Then you open up a new spreadsheet, and it puts in the results that the student’s information after then enter the information. After that they open a new spread sheet, click on doctopus and launch it (or add it if you didn’t already). You then can populate it with a roster that you may have to build, but select right on that sheet and it generates the headings for you in columns and you can copy and paste the information from the previous spread sheet and you can then select the names based on the roster. You then can set the roster name and create a class folder. In their googled drive they can then find a new folder. You can then share out the document and it will distribute an individual copy to each student (sort of like google classroom making a copy for each student of an assignment). You can then do one thing for one person and change it for everyone. There are so many features with this!

The final thing that he shared was that he could link the students writing to a rubric that he provided. What a valuable tool to have as a teacher to have a rubric! This would save so much time. He also covered quickly “superquiz” which is a new thing from Flubaroo. This is another tool that I will be checking out as well. He was very detailed with the doctopus app, which as an English teacher would really benefit my students and myself, and I could share it with other English teachers as well.